

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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R 181841Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1153

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04274

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UG, LY

SUBJECT: SUBSTANTIVE REPORTING ON UGANDA: STATE VISIT
OF COLONEL QADHAFI

THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF A REPORT FROM FRG EMBASSY
KAMPALA CONCERNING QADHAFI'S RECENT VISIT TO UGANDA.
BEGIN TEXT:

LIBYA'S CHIEF OF STATE, COLONEL QADHAFI, PAID A STATE
VISIT TO UGANDA FROM MARCH 3-5, 1974. IN THE FIRST
INSTANCE THE VISIT CAN BE REGARDED AS A RESPONSE TO A
WHOLE SERIES OF VISITS WHICH AMIN MADE TO LIBYA DURING
THE PAST TWO YEARS. THE ACCENTUATION OF FRIENDSHIP
BETWEEN LIBYA AND UGANDA BEGAN IN FEBRUARY 1972 WHEN
AMIN MADE A STOPOVER IN TRIPOLI ON HIS RETURN FLIGHT
FROM A VISIT TO GERMANY AND, IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER,
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INTRODUCED A SPECTACULAR SHIFT IN HIS NEAR EASTERN POLICY

BY BREAKING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

QADHAFI'S CURRENT VISIT HERE HAS BEEN DEPICTED IN UGANDA AS A DEMONSTRATION OF HIS ROLE AS A RICH AND HELPFUL FRIEND.

THE LIBYAN LEADER WAS GIVEN THE HONOR OF DEDICATING THE NEW AIRPORT AT ENTEBBE AND THE QADHAFI GARRISON AT JINJA. AT THE GULU AIR BASE, HE PRESENTED THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT WITH A SQUADRON OF MIG FIGHTER PLANES.

THE MOST INTERESTING EVENT OF THE VISIT FROM A POLITICAL STANDPOINT WAS QADHAFI'S TWO-HOUR APPEARANCE BEFORE THE STUDENTS OF THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY WHERE, IN THE FORMAT OF A DISCUSSION, HE SKILLFULLY DEVELOPED HIS ISLAMIC STATE PHILOSOPHY AND PRAISED IT AS A RECIPE OF UNIVERSAL VALIDITY FOR AFRICA.

IN DISTANCING HIMSELF FROM THE GREAT COMMUNIST POWERS, HE USED FORMULATIONS WHICH ARE NOT ORDINARILY HEARD HERE. THUS, HE STATED THAT AFRICA REQUIRED A CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN ORDER TO BE TRULY LIBERATED. HOWEVER, THIS CULTURAL REVOLUTION SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN CHINA, WHICH WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN MAO AND HIS OPPONENTS. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, WHO PLAYS A STAR ROLE AROUND HERE, WAS FORCED TO LISTEN WHILE THE LIBYAN STATED THAT SOVIET COMMUNISM HAD, TO BE SURE, PROCLAIMED A DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT, BUT THIS REALLY REPRESENTED NOTHING MORE THAN A DICTATORSHIP OF FUNCTIONARIES.

QADHAFI MADE A STRONG PITCH FOR ISLAMIZATION IN AFRICA. THUS, HE DECLARED IN THE MAKERERE DISCUSSION THAT CHRISTIANITY HAD COME TO AFRICA ONLY AS A MACHINATION OF IMPERIALISM AND NOT AS AN ORIGINAL MESSAGE FROM GOD. SPEAKING TO THE MOSLEM SUPREME COUNCIL OF UGANDA, HE CALLED FOR AN INTENSIFICATION OF MISSIONARY ACTIVITY. IT SHOULD BE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT FOR SOME TIME CARS FROM THE INFORMATION

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MINISTRY EQUIPPED WITH LOUD SPEAKERS AND OCCUPIED BY EMISSARIES OF THE MOSLEM SUPREME COUNCIL HAVE BEEN TRAVELLING ABOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE CALLING UPON THE POPULATION TO CONVERT TO ISLAM AND TO MAKE OF UGANDA A UNIFIED ISLAMIC COUNTRY.

REFERRING TO QADHAFI'S RELIGIOUS APPEALS, THE SAUDI ARABIAN AMBASSADOR HABABI TOLD ME IN A CONVERSATION THAT

ONE COULD ONLY REGARD THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR AS
INAPPROPRIATE IN A COUNTRY WHOSE POPULATION IS 60
PERCENT CHRISTIAN. BY WAY OF CONTRAST, HE REFERRED TO
KING FAISAL'S VERY RESERVED BEHAVIOR ON
RELIGIOUS MATTERS DURING HIS STATE VISIT TO UGANDA IN
THE FALL OF 1972. END TEXT.
HILLENBRAND

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